GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3810
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2004
SMUGGLING IN PASSENGER TRAIN
Modi Shri Sushil Kumar;Vijay Krishna Shri

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Bihar has confiscated 273 UP Bhikhna Thori-Narkatiaganj passenger train on February 20, 2004 along with contraband forest timber and other produce which were being smuggled abroad; and

(b) if so, the details of the seizure and since when this smuggling racket was in operation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a): No, Sir. But Train No. 273 up Bhikhnathori − Narkatiaganj passenger was forcibly stopped near gate No. I/C-20 between Bhikhnathori − Narkatiaganj Railway Stations placing a red flag banner on track by Divisional Forest Officer / Betiah for checking the train. Divisional Forest Officer / Betiah, further forcibly detained the train by disconnecting the Hose Pipes. A seizure memo was prepared by the Divisional Forest Officer in which seizure of Engine and Coaches were shown and Guard and driver of the train were compelled to sign on the same. The Forest Department officials further compelled the Guard and Driver to sit in Forest Department vehicle but on the protest by the travelling passengers, the Guard and Driver were released. Due to this incident, the train suffered detention at the site for one hour.

(b): Divisional Forest Officer/ Betiah has not made any seizure of forest products in the said train taking the signature of the Guard and Driver and no intimation regarding seizure of Forest Products in the said train was given to Railway Administration by Forest Department officials.

On the written statement of the Guard and Driver of the train, Government Railway Police (GRP)/Narkatiaganj has registered a case no. 05/04 dated 20.2.2004 under section 146/150/174 of the Railways Act,1989 and section 342, 353 of the IPC against the Divisional Forest Officer / Betiah and others.

The Bhiknathori − Narkatiaganj section is affected for unauthorized carrying of forest products by the local villagers. No report of smuggling aboard of forest products has been received by the Railways from Forest Department. However, in order to stop the unauthorized carrying of forest products, RPF conducts checks in the train from time to time and succeeded in recovery of forest products worth Rs. 1,82,000/-, during the current year 2004 till November which were handed over to the Forest Department for further legal action.